

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01067 121839Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130486 121844Z /46
O 121833Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4183

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01067

EXDIS

USOECD

TOKYO PASS AMBASSADOR STRAUSS FROM UNDER SECRETARY
COOPER

STATE PASS ERNEST JOHNSTON AND TREASURY FOR UNDER
SECRETARY SOLOMON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: EC VIEWS ON JAPANESE GROWTH TARGET

1. MICHAEL BUTLER OF UK FOREIGN OFFICE URGES THAT YOU
AVOID "GIVING BLESSING" TO JAPANESE SEVEN PERCENT GROWTH
TARGET IN A WAY THAT SEEMS TO SANCTION IT PUBLICLY.
BRITISH AND TENTATIVE EC VIEW IS THAT SEVEN PERCENT IS
TOO LOW. I EXPLAINED VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF GETTING A
HIGHER TARGET FOR 1978. OUR JOINT EMPHASIS SHOULD NOW
BE ON JAPANESE PERFORMANCE. BUTLER WOULD LIKE TO KEEP
THE PATH OPEN FOR SOME EC UPWARD PRESSURE ON THE GROWTH
TARGET AS WELL. USHIBA PLANS TO VISIT BRUSSELS JANUARY
21, AND EC WILL HAVE A MAJOR DISCUSSION OF JAPAN AT THE
MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON FEBRUARY 7.

2. PLEASE USE ABOVE INFORMATION AS YOU THINK BEST. OUR
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TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT IS ALSO THAT HIGHER GROWTH RATE
WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN JAPANESE
SURPLUS, BUT THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO BE ACHIEVED BY
SETTING UNOBTAINABLE TARGETS. IN ANY CASE DISCUSSIONS
ON THESE MATTERS WILL SURELY CONTINUE BEYOND YOUR VISIT.
EC APPARENTLY PLANS A MAJOR EFFORT OF ITS OWN.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

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